

# Deaf & Hard of Hearing Stakeholder Committee Meeting

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Educational Service Unit #3, LaVista

9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**Attendance:** Laura Barrett, Mike Brummer, Teresa Coonts, Jenny Corum, Brenda Coufal, Sue Czaplewski, Pam Duncan, Kris Elmshaeuser, Rhonda Fleischer, Cara Frost, Wendy Herrold, Lindsey Hinzmann, Jill Hoffart, Shelli Janning, Kami Jessop, Lynn Johnson-Romero, Bethany Koubsky, Diane Meyer, Jessica Moore, Donna Moss, Sara Peterson, Kaylene Randall, Colleen Richart, Mindy Roberts, Lindsey Schubert, Vicki Steinhauer-Campbell, Missy Stolley, Anne Thomas, Deb Vapenik, Tammy Voisin, John Wyvill

Interpreters: Kelly Brakenhoff and Jamy Elker

## Welcome & Introductions

- Introductions were made by every member of the committee. A sign-in sheet was available to mark attendance and to update committee members' contact information.

## Public Posting Information ..... Rhonda Fleischer

- A reminder was given that this is an open meeting and there is a time allowed for public comments. The meeting and agenda were posted more than seven days prior to this meeting on the Nebraska Regional Program website.

## CART Demo .....Margaret Tyska Heaney

- Margaret showed the committee a quick demonstration of how CART works. For more information or to schedule CART for an upcoming event, please contact her directly at [exclusivereporting@cox.net](mailto:exclusivereporting@cox.net) or 402-889-2950.

## Regional Program Updates

- **CWNP (Sue Czaplewski and Sara Peterson)** – CWNP has put together a practice quiz for the Written EIPA exam. All the CWNP interpreters will take this quiz and then the results will be used to determine training areas of most need. Interpreters are also participating in mentoring and attending the EIPA Video Conferences this year. CWNP is holding a training for deaf educators focusing on assessments. They are hoping to develop guidelines from this training. A Visual Phonics Workshop was held in the CWNP area in September and had great attendance. Camp Anderson, for students post 5<sup>th</sup> grade through high school graduation, was held at Fort Robinson last July and 46 students attended from across the state. Most of the camp activities were led by adults who are deaf. The students visited the Hudson-Meng Education & Research Center. Ryan, the manager at the center and the director of the National Forestry Center, is deaf, so it was neat for the students to see a professional deaf adult in his work environment. The Nebraska Regional Programs took 23 students in grades 7-9 to Space Camp at the Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center. A lot of teamwork took place during the week as students worked together to complete a mission and to build rockets. The group also toured the Strataca Underground Salt Museum and went SCUBA diving in the hotel pool. There are four CWNP students planning to attend the Jr. NAD Convention on November 11th. CWNP is also collaborating with Hands & Voices and Guide By Your Side to offer a Mom's Night Inn event in Scottsbluff and an Extended Family Workshop.
- **NERP (Jill Hoffart)** – NERP has two students who qualified for state cross country, two homecoming queens, one senior class president (Class A), and one student who received a grant to start "Deaf Pals", which is a mentoring program for teens/young adults who are deaf/hh. Jill

noted how cool it is to see so much success taking place for students who are deaf/hh in Nebraska! For Deaf Awareness Week in September, two NERP deaf educators applied and received a grant to be able to bring in Ricky Smith to Norfolk. Ricky visited 7 schools, presenting to 2,418 students. NERP hosted the statewide NRP Dance/Deaf Awareness event in September. The annual dance was held Friday evening. On Saturday, students toured the former Nebraska School for Deaf and participated in workshops focusing on self-advocacy skills, empowerment, presenting yourself well, and self-discovery. The workshops were led by adults who are deaf/hh and the event concluded with a NDE SPOT Analysis input session for students to be able to provide their input to NDE. NERP will be hosting a Family Fun Night on November 3<sup>rd</sup> for students in grades 2 and under and their family members to go skating. There are 50 people registered. NERP has 6 students registered to attend the Jr. NAD Convention on November 11th. Sign language mentoring for interpreters and parents has continued this year. Interpreters are also participating in the EIPA Video Conferences via distance, since sites have been made available this year at a more affordable rate. NERP held a back-to-school meeting for deaf educators in September and also sent staff to the Deaf-Blind Institute, Touch Signals Workshop, and the Statewide Sign Language Skill Development Workshop which all took place this past summer.

- ***SNRP (Lindsey Hinzmann)*** – SNRP has welcomed several new staff members (interpreters and deaf educators) in the SNRP region this year. In June and July, SNRP supported seven deaf educators to attend the Midwest Conference on Deaf Education in South Dakota, one audiologist to attend the Educational Audiology Association Convention in Arizona, three interpreters to attend the National Association of Interpreters in Education Conference in Colorado, four deaf educators to the AG Bell Listening & Spoken Language Convention near Washington D.C., and one deaf educator to the CHARGE Conference in Florida. SNRP also had several professionals attend the Touch Signals Workshop, Deaf-Blind Institute, and the Statewide Sign Language Skill Development Workshop with presenter Faith Powell. Frances Beurivage also led discussions with LPS interpreters at an August inservice focusing on a variety of ethical situations. SNRP supported one audiologist to attend the NSLHA Conference in September and will also be holding a Visual Phonics Workshop on November 18th. SNRP held their annual Fall Family Festival on October 1<sup>st</sup> at the Roca Ridge Events Center. There were 15 families that attended and activities included painting a family terra-cotta pot, planting a mum plant inside the pot, a fall craft, face painting, a petting zoo, and pony rides. It was a great event and it was nice to have UNL students volunteer to help. There are three SNRP students registered to attend the National Jr. NAD Convention. SNRP will be hosting the statewide Arts Festival in Lincoln and Beatrice December 1-2 for students in grades 3-6. The theme this year is “The Art of Skating” and students will be ice skating, roller skating, learning how to play broomball, touring and participating in a fact find at the National Museum of Roller Skating, watching a roller skating artistic demonstration by a student who is hard of hearing and her family members, and cheering on the UNL hockey team as they take on Missouri State. Family sign language classes have continued on an as-needed basis in the region. Lindsey has created a SNRP Facebook page to help share information and hopefully reach more families and students.
- ***MRP (Diane Meyer and Mike Brummer)*** – Mike was excited to announce that one MRP student from Bellevue has recently been honored as an Eagle Scout! MRP is offering eight sign language classes this fall with four different instructors and registration numbers have been good. The statewide Storytelling Festival was hosted by MRP this year and held at the Kearney Archway on October 9th. There were 90 students in attendance and adults who are deaf or hard of hearing led the student events which focused on the history of NAD, sod houses, pinwheel making, and touring the Archway. An airplane-making activity was held in Bellevue on October 10<sup>th</sup> and some TASK-12 representatives were in the area and came observed the event which was neat. There are three Battle of the Books (BOTB) teams this year with students from across the state. It has been challenging to meet geographical needs across all the different levels. There

are also two Academic Bowl (AB) teams this year including an Eastern team and a Western team. The AB Regional Competition will be held in February at the Iowa School for the Deaf. Since it is close by this year, the Nebraska Regional Programs will be taking other students who are deaf/hh to cheer on the teams and help generate even more interest for future years. NDE is funding both the AB and the BOTB, but if any of the teams make it to the National Competition then Gallaudet will pay those expenses (the Nebraska AB team has made it to Nationals the last two years). The MRP Summer Enrichment program for students in grades Pre-K through 6<sup>th</sup> grade had 39 students enrolled last June. Diane noted that next year's Summer Enrichment theme will focus on cultures. MRP had several staff members attend the summer Deaf-Blind Institute, Touch Signals Workshop, and Statewide Skill Development Workshop. Diane also attended the Foundations for Literacy training out of Georgia State University. This training was for a new curriculum designed for students ages 3 through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. The curriculum (based on 10 years of research and very thorough) cost \$420 and you also get a flash drive with all the digital materials. MRP has purchased the curriculum to try with MRP students and Diane said she would be happy to answer any further questions. Diane and Mike are both participating in the "Best Practices In and Out of the Classroom" sub committee of the NCDHH Education Task Force. A statewide SEE Skillshop will be held November 10-12<sup>th</sup> and another one February 23-25<sup>th</sup> both in Omaha. Diane noted that the interpreter strand of the SEE Skillshop does not solely focus on Signing Exact English and that the instructor, James Kilpatrick, does an excellent job of tailoring the workshop to meet the needs of the group. MRP is also planning to schedule a Visual Phonics Workshop soon.

**Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NCDHH).....John Wyvill & Jenny Corum**

- The four subcommittees of the D/HH Education Task Force are still working. They will be reviewing the NDE Spot Analysis input and will then develop a survey to hopefully disseminate in January.
- The NCDHH board has three main focus areas including education, employment, and emergency preparedness.
- NCDHH has hired several new staff members including Pam Duncan (Interpreter Program Assistant), Aaron Rothenberger (Advocacy Specialist in the Grand Island/Kearney/Hastings areas), and Teresa Hevner (Advocacy Specialist in Omaha). Diane Schutt has been appointed to the NCDHH board. She is a retired school teacher from Fairbury who is hard of hearing.
- NCDHH met with Cathy Carotta at Boys Town to seek advice on possible testing requirements that would allow educational interpreters to provide community interpreting services without having to take the QAST.
- The Education Summit held October 21<sup>st</sup> had a great turnout. John encouraged everyone to send feedback to him or Jenny Corum via email. They will use that feedback as they plan to offer another summit soon.
- John thanked NDE/Nebraska Regional Programs for helping sponsor students to attend the National Jr. NAD Convention on Saturday, November 11, 2017.
- NCDHH has received a notice from the governor anticipating a one percent budget cut for the third and fourth quarters.
- The Hearing Aid Insurance Task Force has been meeting to work on legislation to be able to provide hearing aids to children.
- NCDHH, NeAD, and the Omaha chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America have been working together to make Memorial Stadium more accessible for people who are deaf/hh. They are piloting a Twitter captioning program (join the "@HuskerCaption" Twitter account). John encouraged members to try it out and send any feedback to Kristi Horn at HLAA or [access@unl.edu](mailto:access@unl.edu)

- Pam Duncan is working to coordinate two upcoming sign language interpreter workshops entitled, “Cultural Competency for ASL Interpreters” and “ASL Verb System: Morphology and Lexicons.” These were originally scheduled for December 2-3 but have been postponed. Look for more information soon. Pam said she is also in the process of scheduling professional peer learning opportunities for interpreters that will offer a low-cost training opportunity.

**Deaf-Blind Project/Low Incidence ..... Teresa Coonts**

- The Deaf-Blind Summer Institute will be held July 16-19, 2018. Teresa received a lot of feedback from participants wanting more Touch Signals training so she has invited Beth and Ryan back to present more Touch Signals July 18-19. Since the Touch Signals portion is very expensive, Teresa is considering asking outside agencies for financial support. The rest of the week is still in the planning stages. Registration should be available in April.
- This is the last year of the Deaf-Blind grant, which will end September 30, 2018. Teresa said she plans to write another grant in 2018 and letters of support are always greatly appreciated.
- The Open Hands Open Access Training Modules are still available and provide good training for anyone. Tanya Armstrong’s (formally Hilligoss) chats with teachers of the visually impaired are also still occurring.
- The state Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Conference will be held at the LaVista Embassy Conference Center April 19-20, 2018.
- The National Deaf-Blind Summit and International Conference will be held the week of April 19<sup>th</sup>. Both Teresa and Tanya will be attending this conference.

**UNO..... Julie Delkamiller**

- No report provided.

**UNL.....Anne Thomas**

- The Mid-Plains Professional Upgrade Partnership - Sensory Disabilities (MPUP-SD) is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the grant. This grant is designed to address the critical shortage of highly qualified teachers who serve children and youth with sensory disabilities, including those who are visually impaired or deaf or hard of hearing, in Nebraska and the surrounding Mid-Plains states. For the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the cohort, 7 scholars were accepted into the deaf/hh program and 7 into the VI program, which is more than the 10 they had budgeted for, but since some scholars are local they were able to accept more. So now there are a total of 11 scholars in the deaf/hh side that are being funded and an additional 7 scholars in the program that are not being funded. Anne said this is encouraging especially since the majority of the scholars are from Nebraska! UNL is now recruiting for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the grant looking for 5-7 scholars (a flyer is attached to the minutes to help distribute). Applicants must have a teaching certificate to be accepted into the program. Preference is given to teachers who have a special education degree but other applicants may be accepted. They would need to complete an additional 12 credits not funded by the grant. Priority registration will be given to those who apply by January 15<sup>th</sup> but there will be another review of applicants most likely in May. More information can be found online (<http://cehs.unl.edu/secd/mpup-sd/>) or by contacting Anne ([athomas16@unl.edu](mailto:athomas16@unl.edu)) or Mackenzie Savaiano ([msavaiano2@unl.edu](mailto:msavaiano2@unl.edu)).
- Anne said there is a level of sign language proficiency that needs to be met before graduating from the MPUP-SD program and to please keep her scholars in mind if you know of any sign language classes or workshops they could possibly attend in person or via distance. Anne will ask her students to email the NRP coordinators to be added the NRP list serves. Additionally, Anne mentioned they do have some funds available to potentially pay for sign language mentors.
- Anne would like to meet with each NRP coordinator and other outside agencies to discuss current needs and find out ways to better collaborate and improve education for UNL scholars.

**NeRID..... Pam Duncan**

- Crystal Pierce has been elected to be the new NeRID president starting January 1, 2018.
- The NeRID Fall Conference was held in Ashland October 20-21, 2017. The conference focus was on “Overcoming Hurts and Disappointment in Interpreting” and it was very successful.

**Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) ..... Vicki Steinhauer-Campbell**

- Nebraska VR will be holding a public meeting, open to everyone including those who have a disability, on November 3<sup>rd</sup> to allow individuals to comment about VR’s policies and procedures. The purpose of holding the public hearing is to amend the Vocational Rehabilitation State Plan. This year, Nebraska VR’s funding has been cut. The agency wants to serve all disabilities to help individuals be successful. At this point, it was best for VR to amend its plan. Rehabilitation Service Administration (RSA) will approve the amendment so VR can establish an Order of Selection (OOS).
- Under the OOS, Nebraska VR will continue to provide services to all individuals who are already receiving services (as of November 3, 2017 or final approval of the Order of Selection by RSA) under an approved Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE). New clients determined eligible and assigned to a closed priority category on or after November 3, 2017 will be placed on a waiting list until the resources are available to provide the full range of services. The closed priority categories are as follows:
  - Priority 1: Clients determined to have a most significant disability. These are clients with severe physical or mental impairments that impact two (2) or more functional capacities and who require multiple services for an extended period of time.
  - Priority 2: Clients determined to have a significant disability. These are clients with severe physical or mental impairments that seriously limit one (1) or more functional capacities and who require multiple services for an extended period of time.
  - Priority 3: Clients determined to have non-significant disability. All other VR eligible clients
- When VR determines eligibility for service, VR will discuss the decision with the client and the client will be able to go to the Client Assistance Program (CAP) if they disagree with the decision made. VR is unable to predict how long a client may be placed on the waiting list, as it will depend on how many clients apply for services.
- VR is currently collaborating with all other agencies to let them know what’s happening with VR services, and if clients are not in Priority Group 1 then VR will refer them to appropriate services.
- VR will still be providing Pre-Employment Transition Service (Pre-ETS), as VR is required to use 15 percent of their funding toward transition services for students. Students can apply for adult services and if they are on the waiting list, they can still get Pre-ETS service until the age of 22 years old. The Pre-ETS services include: Self-Advocacy, Career/Postsecondary Exploration, Independent Living, Job Readiness, and Work Based Learning.
- Vicki noted Nebraska VR does not know how long they will have to be in OOS because it depends on funding each year. She said it rarely happens to Nebraska so VR is hopeful things will be better in the near future. If anyone has any questions, please feel free to email Vicki ([vicki.steinhauer-campbell@nebraska.gov](mailto:vicki.steinhauer-campbell@nebraska.gov)).

**Nebraska Association of the Deaf (NeAD).....Jonathan Scherling & Pete Seiler**

- No report provided.

**Interpreter TA Document Update.....Rhonda Fleischer & Teresa Coonts**

- The revised Interpreter TA Document is posted on the NDE website under “Guidelines for Educational Interpreters.” Training for the document is still in the works.

**SPOT Analysis.....Rhonda Fleischer & Teresa Coonts**

- The SPOT Analysis input received from all of the sessions has been compiled (87 pages) and sent to participants who participated in a session (also attached to the minutes). Teresa and Rhonda are now working to group information into “theme” areas. Then the goal is to move these theme areas into action plans. One common theme they have found so far is the desire for more training and staff development opportunities. Rhonda noted there is public relations work to be done as well as there are several misconceptions/misinformation that people shared at the sessions. They are trying to first look at the opportunities/problem areas of the input provided so that these areas can be addressed. However, overall it was a wonderful experience and there was a lot of positive information shared.

**Transition Summit Team ..... Rhonda Fleischer, Vicki Steinhauer-Campbell, Jenny Corum**

- The National Deaf Center on Postsecondary Outcomes (NDC) has asked each region to choose a priority area and the Nebraska team has chosen “having high expectations.” The committee will meet again in January and the National Conference will be held in June 2018.

**Early Hearing Detection & Intervention in Nebraska (NE-EHDI)..... Brenda Coufal**

- The 2016 Annual Report is now available on the NE-EHDI website ([www.dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/EHDI](http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/EHDI)). Brenda said to keep in mind this is a point in time report so she also shared the following statistics:
  - In 2016, 64 babies were identified as deaf/hh.
  - Of these 64 babies, 99% were screened within 1 month of age, 62.9% completed follow-up within 3 months, and 78% enrolled in EDN within 6 months of age.
  - Only 2 babies were lost to follow-up in 2016.
  - All birthing hospitals in Nebraska conducted newborn hearing screening as a standard of care for 2016 births.
- NE-EHDI has visited 19 hospitals this year. Their goal is to visit all 54 birthing facilities within the 3-year grant period. They have continued to work with hospital staff on how to communicate news with parents, data entry of results, and follow-up of services.
- NE-EDHI currently receives federal funding from CDC and HRSA. They do not receive any state funds.
- The next National EHDI Meeting will be held in Denver March 18-20, 2018. A stipend for conference attendance will again be offered to a Nebraska parent of a child who is deaf/hh. Brenda will share the parent application as soon as it becomes available.
- The next NE-EHDI Advisory Committee meeting will be held November 16th.
- To better serve families and to meet additional needs, EHDI has funded two part-time staff who are affiliated with GBYS. Shelli Janning is working about 16 hours/week for EHDI and Gabby Maza will be working with Spanish-speaking families about 4 hours/month. They will be responsible for following up with families.
- NE-EHDI is working on two community learning projects. The first is a hospital training project to develop a training video for hospital personnel. The second is starting a tele-audiologist service in western Nebraska. They are working closely with ESU#13 to make this happen.

**Hands & Voices..... Shelli Janning**

- The annual Fall Family Bash was held October 15<sup>th</sup> and 60 people attended.
- Mom’s Night Inn will take place in Scottsbluff in November and in Lincoln in February.
- An ASTra Training (Advocacy Support Training) will be held on Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup> in the Omaha area and on Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup> in Lincoln. The same training will be provided both days to allow more people to access it – those for whom a week day is the preference and those for whom a weekend would work better. This training is a proactive approach encouraging

positive relationships between school districts and families. The rooms at each location can accommodate over 100 people and Zoom opportunities will be available, so please help encourage professionals, parents, and administrators to all register.

- The Nebraska Hands & Voices chapter has a 12-person volunteer board.
- In collaboration with NeAD and MRP, Connect Saturday reading activities have continued to take place this year in the Omaha area. At these activities, a deaf or hard of hearing adult reads (sign, voice, or both) books to children (an interpreter is also present to sign or voice as needed).
- Hands & Voices has also continued to host a Saturday morning Coffee Club that meets at 9:00 am, usually at Chik-Fil-A (17501 W Center Rd, Omaha). This is an inexpensive and informal way for families to come and visit with each other. The Coffee Club and the Connect Saturday Readings are now alternating months (Coffee Club is meeting one month then the Connect Reading is the next month).
- There were 17 families that attended the Grandparent and Extended Family Workshop in Gretna on September 23rd. This workshop was co-sponsored by Hands & Voices, Nebraska EHDI, Parent Training & Information, and the Nebraska Regional Programs. It will be offered again in Scottsbluff on November 5<sup>th</sup> (10 people registered) and in Hastings on November 18th (depending on registrations – may cancel Hastings location due to lack of registrations).
- Shelli noted that the fall six-week Deaf Culture and ASL Workshops lacked parent attendance.

**Guide By Your Side (GBYS)..... Shelli Janning**

- GBYS is currently serving 118 families in Nebraska. Several new parent guides have been hired so there are guides across the state including Spanish-speaking guides.

**Amplify..... Missy Stithem**

- No report provided.

**Boys Town..... Bethany Koubsky**

- Boys Town recently met with the TASK-12 board and it was nice to see them face-to-face.
- Boys Town has continued to offer the EIPA Video Conferences. There are 4 scheduled this year, all focusing on EIPA performance areas. Nebraska interpreters working in an educational setting may register and attend in person at a discounted rate of \$25. Distance sites are also available at a more affordable rate this year. Boys Town is working on adding past EIPA Video Conferences to an online learning management system and professionals will be able to view these as an on-demand online webinar (instead of making DVDs). More information to come.
- The EIPA/ASL Immersion Skillshop will be held in York in June 2018 (instead of Aurora).
- Boys Town has secured funding to offer a Roots & Wings workshop for parents to be held at Carol Joy Holling in February.

**Additional Topics**

- No additional topics.

**Public Comments**

- No additional public comments.

**Future Agenda Items**

- If you have agenda items you would like to add to the next meeting, please email Rhonda Fleischer ([rhonda.fleischer@esu9.us](mailto:rhonda.fleischer@esu9.us)).

**Next Meeting**

- The next meeting will be held Wednesday, April 11, 2018, at ESU 6 in Milford from 9:00 am-12:30 pm.